

Governor's Water Augmentation Council

January 26, 2018

Meeting Summary

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Location: Arizona Department of Water Resources

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Chairman Tom Buschatske called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Council members introduced themselves individually. The Chairman informed the Council that this meeting would focus on the Governor's Water Solutions Conversation, committee updates, and a conservation pilot program.

Discussion on Governor Ducey's Water Solutions Conversation

Chairman Buschatske reviewed the efforts of the Governor's Office and two work groups to create a legislative package to protect Arizona's Colorado River allocation and future use. ADWR is working with the Governor's Office and the legislature to form legislation for the 2018 session. Natural Resources Policy Advisor to the Governor, Hunter Moore, thanked those in the room that have been working on the Water Solutions Conversation. Mr. Moore said that he looks forward to working with stakeholders in the future and is hopeful that legislative leadership will thoughtfully consider proposals coming out of the process.

Chairman Buschatske shared several observations with the Council. First the Water Solutions Conversation has increased interest in water issues across the state. There has recently been a desalination conference at the legislature, as well as the start of a weekly water-info lunch meeting to educate on water policy issues. Additionally, the two breakout groups in the Water Solutions Conversation have expanded the opportunity for participation.

Rogene De John, a resident of La Paz County, asked about the representation of La Paz County on the Water Solutions Conversation work groups. Chairman Buschatske responded that representation was met through the County Supervisors' Association and other entities. Craig Sullivan of the County Supervisors' Association offered his contact information for follow-up on this question.

Committee Reports

Desalination Committee

Bob Lotts, Chairman of the Desalination Committee, discussed the recent committee discussions concerning disposal of waste stream. He said that the committee is continuing to research how to deal with desalination waste streams and that they will be meeting with ADEQ to discuss a policy for deep well injection. Mr. Lotts was willing to hear any additional suggestions or input from the Council.

Long-Term Water Augmentation Committee

Maureen George, Chairwoman of the Long-Term Water Augmentation Committee provided an update on the progress of a statewide augmentation opportunity project. This project is being done through contract with Carollo Engineers. The scope of work for this project was approved by the Chair of the GWAC to expedite the process. The work will not make recommendations to the Planning Areas for what they should do, but rather make known an available list of feasible augmentation options.

The GWAC Chair asked that Ms. George examine a new report being published from ADWR that looked and above and belowground storage opportunities across the state.

Finance Committee

Sandy Fabritz, Chairwoman of the Finance Committee, said that although the committee has not met since the Spring of 2017, items generated by other committees will be under consideration for future Finance Committee meetings. Ms. Fabritz mentioned that there may be additional work for the committee depending on specific legislation coming out of the 2018 session.

Recycled Water Committee

John Kmiec, Chairman of the Recycled Water Committee, said that the committee has met three times since the last GWAC meeting. These meeting included presentations on the One Water Concept and its implementation in Arizona, generating recycled water topics for future meetings, and developing recommendations for policy changes to be addressed by the Council. Mr. Kmiec mentioned that the removal of the prohibition of direct-potable reuse has been taken up by ADEQ.

The recommendations that came out of the committee were then discussed by the Council. Mr. Kmiec introduced the following topics:

- 1) Potential action on recommendation regarding elimination of the 2025 sunset for accrual of long-term storage credits for effluent
- 2) Potential action on recommendation regarding change in cut to the aquifer for effluent stored at managed recharge facilities

Chairman Buschatzke took comments and reminded the Council that the executive order (2015-13) gives the Chair authority to make recommendations on behalf of the GWAC to the Governor's Office. Warren Tenney of AMWUA, Ted Cooke of CAP, Dave Roberts of SRP, Sandy Fabritz of Freeport, and Cheryl Lombard of Valley Partnership spoke in support of both recommendations. Members of the public, including the Audubon Society, American Rivers, Bureau of Reclamation and City of Tucson also spoke in support of the recommendations. The San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham wrote and distributed a letter of support for both recommendations. [That letter can be viewed here.](#)

Chairman Buschatzke agreed to pass the recommendations on to the Governor's Office.

M36 Water Loss Program Updates

Zack Richards, ADWR Staff, provided an update on a conservation pilot program that came out of the recommendations by the GWAC in the 2016 Annual Report. This program is being carried out by

Cavanaugh consultants, who held their second on-site training in Prescott, AZ on January 24th and 25th. The six systems selected for the pilot program (Arizona Water – Pinewood, Global Water – Eagletail, Clarkdale, Flagstaff, Kingman, Pine-Strawberry) attended and worked on analyzing their water use data to calculate non-revenue water and to work to reduce their lost and unaccounted numbers.

Closing Remarks and Next Meeting

Future GWAC meetings and announcements will be posted to the ADWR website.